

DESTRUCTION OF "CITY" CHURCHES.

"A LONDONER" writing to us on this subject, proposes as follows:—Whenever it should be found requisite for the formation of a new street or for any other public improvement, to remove any of these sacred edifices (which may be justly termed the glory of our metropolis), that accurate plans and drawings of all the parts should be taken, and the building then carefully taken down stone by stone, and removed to other parts of London or the suburbs, where new churches would otherwise be built, there to be re-erected according to the original design.

There are plenty of opportunities for putting this idea in practice. Thus it was only a few weeks ago, that you mentioned that there were ten new churches about to be built in the parish of St. Pancras; now as we have churches enough and to spare (for the reasons enumerated by "An Architect") in the city; would it not be well to remove some of them to St. Pancras, and thus save them from the destroyer.

WESTMINSTER COURT OF SEWERS.

HEALTH OF MARYLEBONE.

A SPECIAL Court of the Commissioners of Sewers for Westminster, was held on the 6th, Capt. Bage, R.N., in the chair.

The court was specially summoned for this day to take into consideration a report laid on the table at the last court by the surveyor, recommending the entire re-arrangement and reconstruction of the sewers in the district of All Souls, Marylebone, eastward of Portland-place, which report was accompanied by elaborate maps and plans.

The report was read by the clerk, which, in the outset, took a review of the sanitary requirements of the parish of All Souls, embracing a population of nearly 27,000 persons, residing in 3,000 tenements, chiefly of a third-rate description, making an average of nine persons to each house. That the average number of deaths in this district was as one in twenty-five; while in that of the adjoining district of Christ church, it only reached one in fifty-nine; and the average mortality in the entire of Marylebone, was something under one in forty-four. The report described the district as not naturally unhealthy, but that there was a great want of proper sewage in the district of All Souls, as in many parts no regular sewers existed; in others, in consequence of being formed on no regular system, they were choked up with refuse matter, and were worse than useless, by the exhalation of the most fetid vapours; while other evils were to be found in sewers with paved bottoms, having no adequate fall to the point of discharge. In addition to these remarks, some valuable suggestions of improvement were introduced. The report, in conclusion, stated that by adopting the plans proposed, when the new sewers were formed upon a uniform system of levels, a regular current of water would run entirely through them until it arrived at opposite points, when, coming in connection with other sewers, it would divide and subdivide, so as entirely to traverse and keep up a perpetual flow through them so far as the body of water would allow, and when the supply of water was regular and abundant, there was no doubt they would keep themselves thoroughly cleansed. In addition to the advantages from connecting sewers together, it would give facilities for keeping up a constant circulation of air throughout the whole of them. The estimated cost of the entire work was 21,000*l*.

The report was received with approbation throughout, and was unanimously adopted.

In furtherance of the plan, new sewers were ordered from Berwick-street, along Wells-street, to Foley-street; improvement of the main sewer from Foley-place, and a continuation of sewer to the end of Charles-street, by which the drainage of the Middlesex Hospital would be considerably improved; and a new sewer from Little Carter-street to Regent-street.

PLYMOUTH CEMETERY COMPETITION.—Messrs. Hamilton and Medland's plan has been selected for the Plymouth cemetery, and the works are to be commenced immediately. Mr. Wightwick, of Plymouth, obtained the second premium.

Correspondence.

VENTILATION OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

SIR,—If Professor Faraday be correctly reported in *THE BUILDER* of the 3rd of April, relative to Mr. Barry's plan for warming and ventilating the new House of Lords, I fear that Mr. Barry will be much disappointed in its practical application. Permit me, Sir, in your character of a public man, to take the liberty to inform you from what data I arrive at this conclusion.

Viz., because the pure warm air admitted at the cornice must be under all circumstances, at a much lower temperature than the ascending vitiated air; for if it is not two-thirds, of the former, from its greater buoyancy, being less surcharged with carbonic acid gas and moisture, it will float along the ceiling, and be drawn off at the place of egress for the vitiated air.

Because, although in a crowded house the ascending vitiated air may be at a temperature of from 65 to 70 degrees, at breathing point (five feet from the floor), it may not in a thin House exceed the temperature of from 55 to 60 degrees, which will become lowered in temperature to from 45 to 50 degrees in its ascent to the ceiling, partly caused by its becoming partially mixed with the cooler descending current of pure warm air, and thereby negative in a greater or less degree the process of ventilation.

Because, for the before-mentioned reasons, the temperature of the pure warm air admitted at the cornice, must not in a thin House exceed 45 degrees, this air in its descent to the floor coming in contact with the windows and walls, will thereby be condensed or lowered in temperature, and descend upon the heads of the members sitting nearest the walls (breathing an atmosphere from 55 to 60 degrees), at a temperature varying from 35 to 40 degrees.

Because the exact adjustment of the temperature of the pure warm air to the temperature of the vitiated air, necessary to preserve the relative degree of temperature, to cause the pure warm air to descend, and the vitiated air to ascend, and be drawn off (the latter of which, especially, must necessarily fluctuate in temperature, at every considerable sudden change in the number of members in attendance during the night's debate), will be found in practice much too complicated to be safely delegated to the management of any person, however attentive and intelligent.

The experiments mentioned by Professor Faraday will prove a deceptive test of the merits of the plan; there can be no difficulty in warming and ventilating an empty room.

Professor Faraday justly observed that ventilation appears easy in theory, but proves difficult in practice. As a summer ventilation, Mr. Barry's plan will not be subject to all the difficulties attendant on the winter season.

I am, Sir, &c., JOSEPH CUNDY.
Kensington, April 15th.

EXHIBITION OF MANUFACTURES AT SOCIETY OF ARTS.

SIR,—I, in common with a great many others, being manufacturers, operatives, workhouse-men, salesmen, and dealers in fancy goods, having experienced great pecuniary loss and inconvenience (the particulars of which I will offer you in detail shortly) from the want of schools of design in this country, feel much pleasure and gratification that an exhibition of British manufactures has been opened at the Society of Arts, Adelphi, Strand. To the council of that institution and the promoters of the exposition, our best thanks are tendered. We would, respectfully, solicit that you insert in your next, the following list of houses at which free admissions may be obtained, stating that the exhibition is open from eleven till four, daily, excepting Wednesday, and that it finally closes on Saturday, the 30th instant.

I am, Sir, &c. H. B.

Mr. Pratt, 118, New Bond-street; Mr. Tennant, 149, Strand; Mr. Millington, 65, Strand; Mr. Greenhill, 148, Strand; Mr. Mortlock, 250, Oxford-street; Mr. Phillips, 359, Oxford-street; Mr. White, 210, Regent-street; Mr. Graves, 6, Pall Mall; Mr. Colnaghi, 13, Pall Mall; Mr. Bell, 186, Fleet-street; Mr. Cundell, 12, Piccadilly; Mr. Pickering, 177, Piccadilly; Messrs. Grant and Griffith, corner of St. Paul's Church-yard, Ludgate-hill.

Miscellaneous.

COST OF IMPROVEMENT BILLS.—Mr. Hume has brought in a bill to establish a taxation of costs on private bills in the House of Commons. We have often alluded to the evil this is intended to lessen. Mr. Hume, in the course of his speech, said, that the Liverpool corporation, for local acts, spent from 1836 to 1844, 24,125*l*.; Liverpool Sewerage Commission, 1842 to 1843, 3,920*l*.; Liverpool and Ilmington Waterworks Company, 1822 to 1843, 3,618*l*.; Liverpool Dock, 1838 to the 31st of November, 1846, 31,242*l*.; Liverpool New Gas and Coke Company, 1823 to 1845, 7,698*l*.; Liverpool Gaslight Company, 58 George III., c. 66, and 4 Victoria, c. 28, and opposition, 5,885*l*.; Bootle Waterworks, Liverpool, 3,164*l*.; Toxteth-park local act, 1842 to 1846, 2,679*l*. Total, Liverpool, 82,331*l*. He found that the trustees of the river Clyde had, since 1836, spent, in applications to that house and in law expenses, 56,847*l*.—as large a sum as was actually laid out in the improvement of the river, the Parliamentary expenses alone being 20,468*l*. The Coal Term Act of Newcastle expired the session before last; a bill was brought in to continue it; it consisted of only two clauses, a third being introduced in committee. He understood from the hon. member for Sunderland, who was on the committee, that not more than an hour was occupied before them, but the attorney's bill was 1,985*l*. Only that morning he had received from Bury an account of the expense of a bill that passed that house last session. It was entirely a sanitary bill; but the charge to the corporation was 3,676*l*. With reference to one railway, the London and York, that the preliminary expenses of the bill amounted to no less a sum than 432,620*l*. The preliminary expenses of passing the bill for the Great Northern Railway were 123,414*l*.; the expenses of the London and York extension were 309,206*l*. making in the whole, 432,620*l*.

THE WISDOM OF THE EGYPTIANS.—Philologists, astronomers, chemists, painters, architects, and physiologists, must return to Egypt to learn the origin of writing—a knowledge of the calendar and solar motion—of the art of cutting granite with a copper chisel, and of giving elasticity to a copper sword—of making glass of the variegated hues of the rainbow—of moving single blocks of polished sienite, nine hundred tons in weight, for any distance by land or water—of building arches round and pointed, with masonic precision unsurpassed at the present day, and antecedent by 2,000 years to the Cloaca Magna of Rome—of sculpturing a Doric column, 1,000 years before the Dorians are known in history—of fresco painting in imperishable colours—and of practical knowledge in masonry. And it is no less clear that every craftsman can behold, in Egyptian monuments, the progress of his art 4,000 years ago, and whether it be a wheelwright building his chariot—a shoemaker drawing his twice—a leather-cutter, using that self-same form of knife which is considered the best form now—a weaver throwing the same hand-shuttle—a whitesmith using that identical form of blow-pipe but lately recognised to be the most efficient—the seal-engraver cutting in hieroglyphics such names as Sphoos's 4,300 years ago—or even the poulterer removing the pip from geese—all these, and numerous other astounding evidences of Egyptian priority in every art and scheme, usage and custom of civilised life, now require but a glance at the plates of Wilkinson and Rosellini.—*Fremason's Quarterly Review*.

LEAKAGE OF GAS PIPES.—With reference to the proposal referred to in *THE BUILDER* (p. 172), to supply gas to places at a considerable distance from Newport and Cardiff, where it is to be manufactured, and the probable waste by leakage, a correspondent (N. R.), suggests that "glass pipes, fitting into each other as tightly as decanter stoppers into the necks, would, possibly, be found sufficient to prevent a considerable portion of the loss."

THE ANTI-UNION OF LONDON.—The annual meeting of subscribers to receive the report of the council, and distribute the amount subscribed, will take place on Tuesday next, in Drury Lane Theatre, the Duke of Cambridge in the chair. The total sum collected will exceed that of last year. We shall give the whole proceedings at length, including the report, and a correct list of all the prize-holders.